(b) if so, the status of Trishul LLQRM system developed by DRDO;

(c) whether the DRDO project has been abandoned; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by Government to develop LLQRM indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with M/s Rafael, Israel to procure Spyder Low Level Quick Reaction Missile System (LLQRM) for Indian Air Force.

(b) to (d) The proposal for Trishul system was foreclosed due to its inability to meet certain critical operational requirements. However, it served as a technology demonstrator and the expertise acquired with the technologies developed during design and development phase of Trishul Missile System are being utilised for developing state-of-the-out Short Range Surface to Air Missile System.

Ordnance factory in Gujarat

961. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government is contemplating to set up an Ordnance Factory for Defence in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The ordnance factories are set up to meet the sustained long-term demand of arms and ammunition and other military stores of the Armed Forces. The existing and planned capacity of the Ordnance Factories is sufficient to meet the requirement of the Armed Forces.

Joint military exercise with China

962. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian and Chinese troops conducted joint military exercises in December, 2007 in China;

(b) if so, the details and benefits thereof;

(c) whether such joint exercises will continue in the future between India and China;

(d) Other countries with which such exercises are proposed to be conducted by India in the near future; and

(e) the details thereof?